

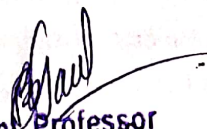
# INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH JOURNAL OF MANAGEMENT SOCIOLOGY & HUMANITIES



ISSN 2277 – 9809 (online)  
ISSN 2348 - 9359 (Print)

*An Internationally Indexed Peer Reviewed & Refereed Journal*

Academic Year 2022 - 23

  
Assistant Professor  
Shivaji College, Hingoli.  
Tq. & Dist. Hingoli. (MS.)

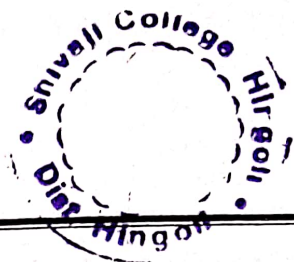
[www.IRJMSH.com](http://www.IRJMSH.com)  
[www.isarasolutions.com](http://www.isarasolutions.com)

Published by iSaRa Solutions

## Translations : Problems in Indian Literature

Dr. Gawali Manisha Baburao

Dept. of English  
Shivaji College, Hingoli (MS)  
[awchargawali11@gmail.com](mailto:awchargawali11@gmail.com)



### ABSTRACT

The English language has a history of more than three centuries in our country. After the British obtained overall control of India, their language naturally became the language of power and governance, and acquired the status of a 'must learn' language. 'The Bengali Renaissance' that began in the mid-eighteenth century, the first sign of modernity in this country, was singularly the result of English education of the 'natives'. In a country where we speak hundreds of languages, and where the national academy of letters, Sahitya Akademi, has recognized 24 major language literatures, and several more marginal and tribal language literatures, the need of a link language is obvious. When the British were in power in India, English became the natural choice as a language that was commonly used all over India for higher education and also as a fashionable means of communication among the upper classes. Even after the British left India, the language has remained in power. Now, with the advent of modernization and liberalization, and the spread of the Internet, English has become the international lingua franca, wielding enormous power.

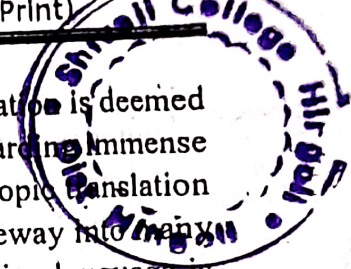
No less important is the prospect of taking our literatures out to the rest of the world through translation. Besides facilitating access to Indian literature within the country, English translation will put our regional literature on the world literary map and our authors will get the due that has long been denied to them. The present Paper focuses on the problems in translations

**Key Words :** Translation, liberalization, Renaissance etc.

Indian literature is a huge banyan tree that represents the various branches of literary works written in 22 languages known and over 100 dialects of India. The diverse nativity that Indian literature embodies is colossal. 'Indian literatures' is believed to occur as a result of the post-colonial conception of an 'Indian Nation' and national integration (Kumar R.n.d.) Although some scholars have repeatedly claimed that this conception was a brainchild of the colonisers and not indigenous Indian literature was made accessible and known to western countries through the art of translation. The emergence of the translation of great works in Indian history dates back to the Mughal empire, particularly Akbar's reign, where the translation of Urdu and other prevalent literature into Persian was lawfully imposed. (Asaduddin, M. 2012)

### Understanding the role of translations in Indian Literature

Derived from the Latin word 'translatio' meaning 'to bring across' (EMN, 2019), translation has often been given analogies, such as the skill of transferring perfume from one bottle to another (Deepak, K. 2013). In simple terms, translation is the process of reproducing the meaning of a text (poem, prose, narrations, research etc.) from a source language to a target language. A Source language is the one in which the literary piece is initially written by the



novelist, while a target language is the one the translator is transcreating to. Translation is deemed the most significant aspect in developing the Indian literature we know of today, regarding immense knowledge gain and removing barriers of cultural exclusivity. Nevertheless, exotropic translation and a significantly less endotropic translation (Asaduddin, M. 2012) provide a freeway into issues in this spectrum. Exotropic translation is where a literary work of any Indian language is retold in English (e.g. Telugu to English). In contrast, endotropic translation translates literature of any Indian language in to another. (e.g. Kannada to Marathi)

**Problems of Translation : Exotropic Indian Literatures**

The concept of transcreating a work of any Indian language into English was held vital and applied for decades post independence. Still, the very target language – English ( a colonial hangover) imprinted in the psyche of Indians to internationalise Indian literature, is a paradox that has been the subject of academic discourses. The argument that exotropic translations bring a multilingual and multicultural country in to the light of global literature and dissemination of information, be it the Upanishads such as Ramayana. Mahabharata or books of faith, namely Quran and Bhagvad Gita, is valid only to the vicinity of preservation of the essence from the original works. In exotropic translations, more often than not, the translators are bound to make the next contextual since they would be catering to English readers. This is called the foreignisation of original literature and domestication for the target language readers. (Tumsar, M. M., & Meshram, H.V. n. d)

There are thin lines differentiating transcreations, retellings, adaptations and renditions. Due to the difficulty in finding exact or substitute synonyms for a few words from the source language in the target language, translations become adaptations and interpretative writing. Translators try to evoke the same feelings and responses of a poetry reading or a novel indulgence in the target language audience while simultaneously conserving the poet’s or author’s purity in the text’s ambiance (Brooks, R.2017). Inevitably, the translation process falls prey to the end to satisfy English readers rather than the Indian author’s intentions. Thus, maintaining the rhythm from the source language to the target language is an issue that remains unsolved, given the inability to transfer different connotations, colloquial contexts and cultural references to food, clothing and names in to a comfortable space in the translated work that would reach English readers (Deepak, K.2013). This calls to an important question : Are we familiarizing or defamiliarizing Indian literatures to the Western world through English translations ?

In the Scenario of Indian literatures, translations possess a diabolic tail. The paradox of ‘Indianness’ in Indian literatures, first recognized by scholars of Western Indologists (Raveendran, P.P. 2006), is reflected more in the translations of indigenous literature of English than in works of Indian languages themselves ; the art of translation carries a burden of suggestive narration, calling it as the ‘translator’s own.’ The meaning and relevance of exotropic translations in Indian literature have been dynamic, especially since colonial and post-colonial times. With chronological context, the value given to exotropic translations should weigh equal to endotropic translations.

The idea that the globally used language for communication English, to be the supposed 'savior' of Indian literatures, perhaps, needs to be revised and rechecked ; for it shall only be another 'sanskritisation' of Indian literature through exotropic translations. In such a contemporary period of Indian cultural and literary history, endotropic translations could play a better role in the national integration the was originally dreamt of.

**Citations :**

- Adkoli, B.N. (2019). Problems Faced in Translating English stories in to Indian Languages. *Language in India*, 19 (1), 79-80.
- Asaduddin, M. (2012). *Translation and Indian Literature : Some Reflections*, Semantic Scholar.
- Chauhan, N. & Shah, C.U. (2020). Issues and Possibilities of Translating Indian Literature into English : An Insight. *Issues and Possibilities of Translating Indian Literatures into English : An Insight*
- Deepak, K. (2013, July 15). *Translation and Its Role in Indian Literature* Literalism : The Republic of Letters.
- Kambar, C. (2020, July 2) What is Indian in Indian Literature ? *The New Indian Express*.
- Kaur, N. (2017) GRN – *The Role of Translation from Indian Writing to English*. GRN
- Pandya , B.H. (2010, Nov. 11) *How quality translations can enrich Indian literature*. Macmillan Dictionary.
- Prasad, K. (1982) Some Problems of Translation from Indian Languages : With Special Reference to Permchand. *Indian Literature*, 25(5), 86-97 Retrieved Aug. 25, 2021.
- Raveendran, P.P. (2006). Genealogies of Indian Literature. *Economic and Political Weekly*, 41 (26)



  
Assistant Professor  
Shivaji College, Hingoli.  
Tq. & Dist. Hingoli. (M.S.)